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Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Fourth session
Geneva, 3-4(am) May 2018
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XXIV,
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 3 May 2018*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

A. General segment

2. Matters arising.

3. Improving the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda.

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region

4. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade:

   (a) Georgia: Findings and recommendations;

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(b) Ongoing work;

5. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade.

C. Continuation of the general segment

6. Programme of work:

(a) Updates from subsidiary bodies;

(b) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities;

(c) Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies;

(d) Stakeholder needs and priorities;

(e) Trade subprogramme biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017;

(f) Trade subprogramme's strategic framework for 2020-2021.

7. Other business.

8. Adoption of report.

II. Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

1. Delegates are invited to adopt the provisional agenda.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/CTCS/2018/1	Decision

A. General segment

Item 2. Matters arising

2. Under this item, the secretariat will report on matters arising from the 2017 meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe Executive Committee (EXCOM) and the Secretary General reforms for repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/124–E/2018/3).

Item 3. Improving the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda.

3. During the third session of the Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS), member States requested the secretariat to report on progress made in extending the scope of the evaluation methodology

used in its studies on regulatory and procedural barrier to trade to capture the impact of non-tariff measures on the achievement of sustainable development goals (SCTCS Decision 2017-4.2b contained in ECE/CTCS/2017/2).

4. To ensure prompt responsiveness and proper addressing of the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development goals, the Chair of the SCTCS decided to review the activities under the Steering Committee in terms of their consistency with the level of ambition of the 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1).

5. Delegates are invited to discuss the results of the review (ECE/CTCS/2018/3) and the terms of reference of the SCTCS (ECE/CTCS/2018/4), which were prepared by the Chair with the support of the Secretariat following consultations with the Bureau members.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Improving the Economic Commission for Europe Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda: Concept Note	ECE/CTCS/2018/3	Decision
Terms of reference for SCTCS	ECE/CTCS/2018/4	Decision

B. High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the Economic Commission for Europe region

Item 4. Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

(a) Georgia: Findings and recommendations

6. Delegates will be briefed about the findings and recommendations emerging from the ECE study of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Georgia. The study was conducted in 2017 using the ECE evaluation methodology, which was extended to capture the impact of non-tariff measures on the achievement of SDGs.

7. The study captures both behind and at-the-border regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, highlights their impact on transaction costs (in terms of both time and money). It also highlights the implication of these barriers for the achievement of SDGs and provides detailed recommendations.

8. Delegates will be also invited to discuss areas for possible joint action and coordination with development partners.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Economic Commission for Europe study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Georgia: Recommendations	ECE/CTCS/2018/5	Decision

(b) Ongoing work

9. Delegates will be briefed on preparations underway for carrying out additional studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, pursuant to requests by member States.

Item 5. Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade

10. Delegates from countries where ECE studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade have been completed will inform the Steering Committee about ongoing and planned follow-up activities, particularly those related to implementing the recommendations emerging from the studies.

11. In addition, the secretariat will brief the Steering Committee about common challenges to removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the region emerging from the national studies carried out to date and highlight their implications for the achievement of SDGs.

12. Delegates will be invited to discuss areas for possible joint action and coordination with development partners.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Follow-up on Economic Commission for Europe countries studies: Republic of Moldova	ECE/CTCS/2018/6	Decision
Follow-up on Economic Commission for Europe countries studies: Kazakhstan	ECE/CTCS/2018/7	Decision
Follow-up on Economic Commission for Europe countries studies: Kyrgyzstan	ECE/CTCS/2018/8	Decision
Regulatory and procedural barriers to trade: Evidence from Economic Commission for Europe national studies	ECE/CTCS/2018/9	Decision

C. Continuation of the general segment

Item 6. Programme of work

(a) Updates from subsidiary bodies

13. Each subsidiary body will report about its priorities, completed activities and future plans as well as about decisions that need to be considered by the Steering Committee. Delegates will be invited to endorse the reports by the subsidiary bodies.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-seventh session	ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2017/2	Decision
Report of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards on its seventy-third session	ECE/CTCS/WP.7/2017/2	Decision

(b) Capacity-building and technical assistance activities

14. Delegates will be invited to endorse the relevant sections of the Trade Subprogramme's report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities implemented since the previous session. Reported activities by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Report on capacity-building and technical assistance activities	ECE/CTCS/2018/10	Decision

(c) Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

15. Delegates will be briefed about activities of potential interest undertaken by UN/CEFACT and the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP).

16. The secretariat will report on ongoing collaboration with other international organisations.

17. Representatives from other international organizations will be invited to highlight areas for potential cooperation with the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards as well as current and future activities of relevance to delegates.

18. A discussion will take place on potential areas for collaboration between the Steering Committee and other Economic Commission for Europe bodies and international organisations.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Report of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business on its twenty-fourth Plenary session	ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2018/2	Information
Report of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships on its twelfth session	ECE/CECI/2018/2	Information

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies	ECE/CTCS/2018/11	Decision

(d) Stakeholder needs and priorities

19. Delegates will be invited to discuss the needs of low and middle-income countries for removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those identified in the Economic Commission for Europe studies. The discussion will focus on possible measures by member States, and how the Trade Subprogramme might assist in addressing these needs drawing on experience gained and activities undertaken in the areas covered by the Steering Committee.

(e) Trade subprogramme biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017

20. The delegates will briefed about the implementation of the 2016-2017 programme of work as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2018/12. Sections on UN/CEFACT are for information only.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Trade subprogramme biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017	ECE/CTCS/2018/12	Decision

(f) Trade subprogramme's strategic framework for 2020-2021

21. The secretariat will present the trade subprogramme's strategic framework for 2020 as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2017/13. Delegates will be invited to review the document, endorse the outlined areas of work and provide their comments to the secretariat. Sections on UN/CEFACT are for information only.

Title of document	*Document symbol*	*For information/decision*
Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021	ECE/CTCS/2017/13	Information
Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021: Note by the secretariat	ECE/CTCS/2017/14	Information

Item 7. Other business

22. The Steering Committee will approve the dates for its next session.

Item 8. Adoption of report

23. Delegates will adopt the report of the SCTCS fourth session, containing the deliberated decisions.

III. Tentative timetable

Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Description*
3 May 2018	10:00-10:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
		A	**General Segment**
	10:10-10:20	2	Matters arising
	10:20-10:50	3	Improving the Steering Committee on Trade capacity and Standards delivery on the 2030 Agenda
		B	**High-level segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the** Economic Commission for Europe **region**
		4	Supporting the removal of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade
	10:50-13:00	(a)	Georgia: Findings and recommendations
	15:00-15:30	(b)	Ongoing work
	15:30-18:00	5	Country follow-up to Economic Commission for Europe studies on regulatory barriers and procedural barriers to trade
4 May 2018		**C**	**Continuation of the General Segment**
		6	Programme of Work
	10:00-10:40	(a)	Updates from subsidiary bodies
	10:40-11:00	(b)	Capacity-building and technical assistance activities
	11:00-11:10	(c)	Cooperation with Economic Commission for Europe bodies and other organizations
	11:10-11:20	(d)	Stakeholder needs and priorities
	11:20-11:30	(e)	Trade subprogramme biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017
	11:30-11:40	(f)	Trade subprogramme strategic framework for 2020-2021
	11:40-12:00	7	Other business
	12:00-13:00	8	Adoption of the report